

Covid Handbook for Parents and Students (November 30th 2021)

Context

The emergence of the Omicron variant in the last few days has led the government to reintroduce compulsory face coverings in crowded indoor spaces (shops and public transport). In the last 24 hours similar guidance has been issued to schools.

In light of these developments, we have reviewed our broader risk control measures and applied any additional changes that we consider appropriate. These changes are highlighted in red below.

Dress Code

Normal dress code and uniform expectations will apply as normal.

Equipment

Equipment can still be shared between groups but we will try to reduce this when it is easy to do so. Exercise books can still be collected and returned in the normal fashion.

Face Coverings

Students and staff will need to wear face coverings on the school corridors from Tuesday 30th November.

Students will need to continue to wear these face coverings on entry to the classrooms and they can only remove them once they have been told to sit down. In the same way, students will be asked to wear their face coverings as they stand up at the end of the lesson.

Staff will not wear a face covering when teaching.

We will also ask students to wear a face covering in the dining hall while they are in the queues and moving around this area. They can remove their face covering if they are sitting down.

Sixth Form students will need to wear a face covering if they are standing and/or moving around the Sixth Form Centre or the Sixth Form Cafe.

Hand Sanitiser and Wipes

Parents are asked to provide hand sanitiser and wipes for their son/daughter. Students will have the opportunity to clean their workspace before the start of each lesson.

Social Distancing

This will not be required anywhere on site, for staff or students.

LFD Testing

Where case rates are high, we will LFD test the relevant year group/s in school.

Parents are urged to maintain twice weekly LFD testing at home.

We understand that all schools will be asked to LFD all their students immediately after the Christmas holidays. We are waiting on further details regarding these expectations and will provide further information about this in due course.

Cleaning Routines

We will maintain enhanced cleaning routines around the school site.

Cleaning equipment will be available in every classroom.

Ventilation

We will keep windows and doors open as much as possible during the day, although the fire doors in the corridors will need to remain shut.

Dining Hall and Holding Areas

The dining hall will continue to remain in full use.

Holding areas will not be in use, although we may need to reintroduce this sort of year group separation if circumstances change.

Teaching Rooms

All students can follow their timetabled rooming in the normal fashion.

School Day Timings

School day timings will remain unchanged.

Extracurricular Clubs

Extracurricular clubs for specific year groups can return to normal, including those that involve mixed age groups.

Sports fixtures or other events that include other schools will go ahead provided the group sizes are small and these activities are carefully managed. Events that involve large numbers of students from other schools coming into Fallibroome will be postponed.

Movement Around School

We will keep the internal one-way system in place in all areas of the school, except the Performing Arts Block and the Sixth Form Centre.

We will operate two different approaches to the start of lessons:

Model 1

Students will be asked to line up outside the classroom until their teacher arrives.

Model 2

Students will be allowed to enter the classroom as soon as they arrive at the classroom so that they do not have to queue in the corridor.

Individual teachers will let their groups know which approach they intend to adopt for their classroom.

Behaviour

Normal behaviour expectations will apply in full.

Health Monitoring (Students)

Parents are reminded not to send their child to school if they are displaying Covid-19 symptoms (persistent cough; high temperature; loss of sense of smell/taste).

If a child begins to feel ill with Covid symptoms during the school day, they will be sent to the Pastoral Centre. We have procedures in place to manage students with Covid-19 symptoms separately from other students. Parents will be contacted if their son/daughter is showing Covid-19 symptoms and asked to take them home as soon as possible.

Students who are close contacts with a positive case in the same household will need to:

- Stay at home for at least five days
- Limit social contact
- Take a PCR test and receive the result before returning to school
- Take LFD tests every day from Day 6-10

When counting days, Day 1 is the day after the person in the household started showing symptoms. If the person in the household has not shown symptoms, then Day 1 becomes the day after their positive test result.

It seems likely that the self-isolation rules for Omicron cases will be stricter. We will provide more information about this as soon as we can.

Fire Alarm

In the event of a fire alarm, we will organise our evacuation procedures in the normal fashion.

Toilets (Students)

Students will be allowed to use the toilets in the normal fashion. We will not replace the corridor doors to the toilets so that these areas can be easily monitored by staff.

Students will be discouraged from taking a toilet break during a lesson (unless they have a toilet pass).

Assemblies

Unless there is a particularly important issue to be addressed, these will be suspended for all year groups, including the Sixth Form.

Visitors

If considered essential, individual adult visitors can come into school, provided they confirm a negative LFD test result in advance. Where possible, such visits will be avoided.

Open Evenings / Large Events

It seems much more likely that we will not be able to organise these sorts of events in person. As a result, we are currently assuming that GCSE and A-Level Certificate Evenings; the Sixth Form Open Evening; Christmas Concert; etc. will not go ahead in the way we had hoped. Where possible, we will try to put something in place that allows these events to go ahead in an alternative format.

If the Omicron variant proves to be less transmissible than is currently feared, we can review this position closer to the dates for these events.

Online Lessons

We will continue to provide online learning for students who are isolating. Students can log on to these lessons by going to meet.google.com and entering their teacher's staff code.

We will continue to update our central spreadsheet on a daily basis so that our teachers can set up online access for those students who are isolating. However, please bear in mind that if your case is reported to us late in the evening or at the weekend, it may take us a few hours the next morning to update our records and systems accordingly.

Lesson Delivery

Once they are sitting down, students will not need to wear a face covering in lessons. If a lesson activity involves asking the students to move around, they may be asked to wear a face covering.

Teaching assistants will continue to work with their SEND students on a 1:1 basis in the normal fashion.

Assessment, Marking and The Presentation of Student Work

Staff will be able to collect and mark exercise books in the normal fashion.

Communicating with Parents

Parents will be able to come into school for an appointment, provided they confirm that they have had a negative LFD test.

We will move all parents' evenings online.

Summary

We will continue to monitor these issues very closely in the months ahead and will respond to any emerging trends as advised by Public Health.